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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/092,199	03/04/2002	Jiaping Song	SLA 1167	8581

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EXAMINER
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QIN, YIXING

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2622

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/092,199

Applicant(s)

SONG, JIAPING

Examiner

Yixing Qin

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 March 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 March 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/4/02, 9/15/03</u>   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

Y

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

I. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shiota et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,185,000).

1. **Claim 1**

- Shiota discloses in Fig. 1 items 2, 7, and 8 that an image is received from a camera and includes date information (i.e. **time stamp**).
- Shiota discloses in Fig. 1 items 9, 5 and 6 that a picture can be printed that includes a time stamp
- Shiota does not disclose the converting of the image to a bitmap, but this is a well known process in the art of image processing. Note that programs such as Microsoft Paint can convert images into a bitmap format and then further edit the images. Also note Zhou (U.S. Patent No. 6,898,316 – column 4 lines 12-18) and Hayashi (U.S. Patent No. 6,469,738 – column 1, lines 25-28). It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to implement functions similar to those used in Photoshop or Paint or even use those programs for conversion of an image into a bitmap.

2. **Claim 2**

- One can see in Fig. 1 of Shiota, in item 9 that an image is opened for editing, such as for recording of date, position, and font type.
- One can see that item 6 is an edited image, with the date. This is just an example and one skilled in the art knows that the other edits will show up on the printed page also if chosen.

3. **Claim 3**

- Again, from claim 1 above, the a program such as Paint can act as an interpreter.
- The accepting of information can simply be the program opening the image. One can see this in Fig. 1 of Shiota as well (items 7, 9)

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- As mentioned above, Paint can be used to convert the image into a bitmap format.

4. **Claim 4**

- One can see in Fig. 1 of Shiota, in item 9 that an image is opened for editing, and the first checkbox is for the recording of the date (i.e. **print time stamp**).
- Item 6 in Fig. 1 shows the timestamp on the image

5. **Claim 5**

- Although not explicitly stated by Shiota, JPEG and TIFF are well-known image formats. The applicants admits as much on page 1 of the specification.

6. **Claim 6**

- One can see a choice for position (i.e. **location**) of the date on the image in item 9 of Fig. 1 of Shiota.
- Item 6 as printed reflects the "lower right on surface" option.

7. **Claim 7**

- As mentioned in claim 6 above, one of the choices is the position of the date on the image.

8. **Claims 8 and 9**

- One can see in Fig. 1 of Shiota that the date of recording is some text that is superposed on the printed image. It would be obvious to expand this functionality to include something such as text messages. Also, one knows that programs such as Photoshop or Paint already have many manipulation options for editing images, which include the ones described in claim 9.

9. **Claim 10**

- Again, from claim 1 above, the a program such as Paint can act as an interpreter and one skilled in the art can implement functions from Paint or use Paint in accordance with the program of Shiota to produce an interpreter for converting images into bitmap.
- Shiota discloses in Fig. 1 items 2, 7, and 8 that an image is received from a camera and includes date information (i.e. **time stamp**). The JPEG and TIFF formats are well-known as discussed above in claim 5.
- Shiota discloses in Fig. 1 items 9 and 7 that a picture can be displayed for editing
- The first checkbox in item 9 is for the recording of the date (i.e. **print time stamp**).
- One can see a choice for position (i.e. **layout**) of the date on the image in item 9 of Fig. 1 of Shiota.
- One can see that item 6 is the resulting picture with the date.

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**10. Claim 11**

- Although not explicitly disclosed, the computer (item 3) of Shiota would inherently have a controller with a port (i.e. CPU/ USB port of a computer) for receiving the images with the time stamp (item 2).
- The user interface would be the computers monitor. One knows the monitor is inherently connected to the main CPU in order to display the received image.
- The printer would also inherently have a port connected to the computer for receiving images. It would be indirectly connected to the controller.

**11. Claim 12**

- One can see in Fig. 1 of Shiota, in item 9 that an image is opened for editing, such as for recording of date. The checkbox can be read on as a type of user prompting the software to perform an action.
- One can see that item 6 is an edited image, with the date. This is just an example and one skilled in the art knows that the other edits will show up on the printed page also if chosen.

**12. Claims 13 and 15**

- This is similar to claim 12 above. One knows that when the user clicks the checkboxes, the CPU of the computer would appropriately modify the image in preparation for printing. Please also note column 4, lines 7-13 of Shiota.

**13. Claim 14**

- Although not explicitly stated by Shiota, JPEG and TIFF are well-known image formats. The applicants admits as much on page 1 of the specification.

**14. Claim 16**

- One can see a choice for position (i.e. **location**) of the date on the image in item 9 of Fig. 1 of Shiota.
- Item 6 as printed reflects the "lower right on surface" option.

**15. Claims 17 and 18**

- One can see in Fig. 1 of Shiota that the date of recording is some text that is superposed on the printed image. It would be obvious to expand this functionality to include something such as text messages. Also, one knows that programs such as Photoshop or Paint already have many manipulation options for editing images, which include the ones described in claim 9.


**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yixing Qin whose telephone number is (571)272-7381. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on (571)272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

YQ

  
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